

Remarks

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-10, 12-16, 18, 21, and 23-25 have been canceled. Claims 11, 17, and 19-20 have been amended. The specification has been amended. Re-consideration and re-examination of the application is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth herein.

1. The Examiner has objected to the specification, because of a typographical error. The specification has been amended to correct several typographical and grammatical errors. No new matter has been added to the specification. In view of these amendments, removal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

2. The Examiner has objected to the claims, because the terms “a latch element” and “a control element” in claims 1 and 11, lines 2-3, appear to be the same element. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claim 11 has been amended to correct this discrepancy. In view of this amendment, removal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

3. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. 0 945 928 (hereinafter referred to as “EP 0 945 928”).

Claim 11 has been amended to recite that the moveable housing has “two actuation slide means ... each of the actuation slide means having a toothed rack with which a pinion region of a pivotal lever engages in order to displace the actuation slide means, the at least two actuation slide means being of mirror-symmetrical construction and being displaceable in the same direction...” As discussed in paragraphs [0026] and [0032] of EP 0 945 928, EP 0 945 928

teaches a pair of slide members 13 that reciprocatively slide into a pair of guide grooves 12, 12 in mutual opposite directions as a result of pivoting a manipulating lever 20. Unlike the claimed invention, the pair of slide members 13 do not have a toothed rack with which a pinion region of a pivotal lever engages in order to displace the actuation slide means, are not of mirror-symmetrical construction, and are not displaceable in the same direction. EP 0 945 928 therefore does not teach all of the elements of claim 11. Removal of the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10, 12-16, 18, 21, and 23-25 have been canceled. Claims 17, 19, and 22 depend from independent claim 11. As previously discussed, EP 0 945 928 does not teach all of the elements of claim 11, and therefore does not teach all of the elements of claims 17, 19, and 22. Removal of the rejection of claims 17, 19, and 22 is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated with this application to Deposit Order Account No.

501581.

Respectfully submitted,
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